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DO 690 John Wesley's Theology for Today

Steve Harper

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DO 690
John Wesley's Theology For Today
2 or 3 Hours' Credit

Spring Semester, 2008
Tuesdays 6:15p.m.—8:00 p.m. (see **note** below)
steve_harper@asburyseminary.edu

Dr. Steve Harper
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Course Description

The course will focus upon the distinctive theological contributions of John Wesley for the larger Christian community and for the Wesleyan family. Attention will be given to the roots of Wesley's theology, but the emphasis will be upon the value of the Wesleyan theological perspective for today.

Course Objectives

The course will seek to....

1. identify the roots of the Wesleyan tradition
2. discuss and evaluate the "Wesleyan quadrilateral"
3. articulate and interpret a Wesleyan theology of grace
4. show how theology and piety are synthesized in Wesley's thought
5. connect Wesleyan theology to the life of the church today

Course Textbooks

For Two Hours' Credit

Paul Chilcote, *Recapturing the Wesleys' Vision*

Steve Harper, *The Way to Heaven*

Albert Outler, *John Wesley*

A. Outler & R. Heitzenrater, *John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology*

For Three Hours' Credit (add these two books to those above)

Albert Outler, *Evangelism and Theology in the Wesleyan Spirit*

Frank Whaling, *John and Charles Wesley*

Course Requirements

1. Reflection Reports (20%). You will prepare two reports on any of Wesley's sermons. Guidelines for this report will be given out the first day of class.
2. Book Report (20%). You will prepare one report on a selected book (other than textbook) that further informs you regarding Wesley's theology. Guidelines for this report will be given out the first day of class.
3. Class Meeting (20%). You will experience the Wesleyan class-meeting at stated times in the semester (see class schedule). You will write a two-page report of your experience.
4. Final Examination (40%). A comprehensive final examination will be administered the final week of the semester (see class schedule). A study guide will be handed out in advance of the exam.

Class Schedule

(Note: Readings are intended to be completed before the class session, so as to help create a common mind among participants)

February 12	Orientation Wesley's World Readings: Harper, Chapter 1 Outler, Introduction
February 19	The Wesleys as Theologians Wesleyan Theology Readings: Outler, Part One (37-116)
February 26	The Wesleyan Quadrilateral Conjunctive Theology Readings: Chilcote, Introduction
March 4	Class Meeting

April 22	Ecclesial Theology Readings: Harper, Chapter 9-12 Chilcote, Parts 2, 3, & 4 Outler (308-317)
April 29	Class Meeting
May 6	Theology and the Sacraments Readings: Outler, (317-332)
May 13	Final Exam

Note: Students who are registered for 2 hours' credit will meet from 6:15-7:45 p.m. Students who are registered for 3 hours' credit will meet from 6:15-8:45 p.m. The third hour will be in small groups from 8:00-8:45 p.m., following a schedule prepared by Dr. Harper and based on readings in the book by Frank Whaling. Students registered for three hours will have this guide sent electronically to them.

On the dates marked "Class Meetings" students will meet in small groups, following the guide that Dr. Harper will distribute on the first night of class.

Bibliographies for the course are found in the textbooks rather than a separate handout.